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DIARY OF THE WAR

AIR ACTIVITY OVER ENGLAND AND GERMANY

13th June.—Royal Air Force bombers made the heaviest attack so far on the Ruhr. Docks at Brest and Antwerp were also attacked and set on fire.

Mr. Ernest Bevin said: "We have made night-fighting expensive to the enemy. Scientists, engineers and craftsmen are building up an armoury for defence."

14th June.—Seven enemy aircraft were destroyed during air raids over Britain.

The Royal Air Force attacked "invasion" ports. Brest was heavily raided, and German warships were bombed in their berths.

15th June.—There was very slight enemy activity over Britain.

Aircraft of the British Bomber Command attacked industrial targets in the Cologne area. British fighter planes swept over the Channel and Northern France, accompanied by a squadron of bombers which attacked airfields in St. Omer.

16th June.—The Royal Air Force attacked aerodromes in Occupied France and the Ruhr.

17th June.—The Royal Air Force raided the Ruhr for the sixth night in succession and also bombed enemy shipping off the Dutch and German coasts.

A German seaplane and ten fighters were shot down over Britain.

Mr. Attlee announced in the Commons developments of high promise in the detection and destruction of enemy planes.

18th June.—In Royal Air Force activities over Germany and northern France 13 enemy planes were destroyed and an enemy supply ship hit. There were only scattered raids on Britain. The British Government announced the existence of a secret weapon—which detects enemy aircraft by radio—to counteract night bombers.

19th June.—A small number of enemy aircraft dropped bombs on the East Midlands.

Bremen was heavily raided by the Royal Air Force.

AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

13th June.—The Italians in Jimma were encircled by British forces.

Enemy raiders were turned back from Malta and ten enemy aircraft were shot down.

14th June.—The Royal Air Force and the Australian Air Force gave full support to the Imperial forces in Syria and several German planes were shot down.

An air raid on Malta was beaten off by British fighters and five enemy bombers were shot down.

The first air raid on Gibraltar since September 1940 occurred to-day, but there was neither damage nor any casualty.

Benghazi and Rhodes were bombed by the Royal Air Force.

15th June.—Cyprus experienced its second air raid of the war when a few enemy bombers attacked two villages on the western side of the island.

16th June.—There was a strong British attack on the Sollum front.

The Italian General, Pralormo, surrendered with 2,000 troops in the Soddu area.

In the Assab area, the Allied forces captured the important aerodrome at Maccara.

The Royal Air Force activity over Cyrenaica was again on an extensive scale.

17th June.—British Imperial forces penetrated as far as Fort Capuzzo in Libya and captured an enemy rear-guard position west of Latemti in Abyssinia.

The Royal Air Force made a very heavy raid on Benghazi.

18th June.—A heavy battle was in progress on the Libyan frontier. An encircling movement by the enemy was foiled by the British forces withdrawing to forward positions. A number of enemy tanks and guns were destroyed as also 20 enemy aircraft.

The Italian garrison in a fort in the Wolchefit sector in Abyssinia was surprised and captured.

19th June.—British forces that launched a big attack in the western desert in the Sollum front are safely back in their original positions.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

13th June.—The United States Senate approved of legislation, authorizing the President to seize defence plants in case of existing or threatened failure of production.

Mr. Sumner Welles, United States Under Secretary of State, denied the German claim that the Robin Moor was carrying contraband and accused Germany of breaking the International Agreement regarding the safety of passengers of any merchantman attacked by a submarine.

Mr. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, declared that Canadian troops were ready to be used in any field decided on by the High Command.

14th June.—President Roosevelt renewed his pledge of full material assistance to Great Britain and her Allies, in a message of greetings to His Majesty King George on his birthday.

A sharp attack on the Darlan-Laval group in France was made by Mr. Cordell Hull, United States Secretary of State, who said that the Vichy Government were apparently fighting Germany's battle in Syria.

Mr. Roosevelt ordered the immediate freezing of all German and Italian assets in the United States of America. These assets, according to the latest available figures, amounted to 200 million dollars.

Preparations to sow mines in the lower bay of New York harbour were disclosed by the United States Navy department.

15th June.—Rear-Admiral Luctzow, broadcasting from Germany, complained bitterly of the United States Naval Patrol system.

16th June.—Broadcasting his thanks to Rochester University in America for conferring on him the honorary Doctorate of Civil Law. Mr. Churchill remarked: "United we stand, divided we fall."

It was reported that Danish ships seized in America would be placed on service with United States Merchant Fleet.

Mr. Sumner Welles handed to a representative of the German Embassy an order to close all German consulates in the United States and to remove all German nationals connected with them. He said that the step was taken because Nazi agencies were engaged in activities harmful to America.

It was reported from Washington that Mr. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, blocked a shipment of 252,000 gallons of oil to Japan. The reason given was the threatened shortage of oil in the Eastern United States.

The United States Senate passed the 250 million dollar bill for the construction of highways for defence purposes.

Secret Nazi radio stations were discovered and seized in Mexico and their staffs imprisoned.

17th June.—Mr. Roosevelt conferred with War and Navy Department officials on ensuring the delivery of American bombers for the British forces in Africa.

Col. Knox, United States Secretary of the Navy, emphatically declared that Britain could resist the Nazis.

Mr. Stimson, United States Secretary for War, said that America must face the prospect of a long war.

18th June.—Mr. Sumner Welles indicated that the strong German protest against the expulsion of Nazi Consuls from the United States would be flatly rejected.

President Roosevelt ordered customs officers and border patrols to ensure that no German national left the country for the present.

Naval reserve in the United States were ordered to stand by.

19th June.—Germany has ordered the closing of all United States Consular offices in Germany and occupied countries.

Mr. Morgenthan, Secretary of the Treasury, announced at a Press Conference that proposals to exempt Portugal, Russia, Spain, Finland, Sweden and Switzerland from the United States "freezing order" are being considered. The Oxford University confered through Lord Halifax the degree of Doctor of Civil Law on President Roosevelt.

GREECE AND ITALY

15th June.—The Italian Government ordered an immediate census of all United States property in Italy, evidently in retaliation of Mr. Roosevelt's order to freeze all German and Italian assets in the United States. Germany followed suit.

16th June.—The sudden death of General Grossi, President of the Italian Armistice Commission in France, was announced.

17th June.—A cruiser, seven destroyers, two torpedo boats and five submarines of the Greek Navy reached Alexandria and joined the British Mediterranean Fleet.

18th June.—Sgr. Starace, former Secretary of the Fascist Party, has been removed from office and Lieut.-General Enzo Galbiati appointed in his place.

BALKANS, TURKEY, IRAQ, IRAN, ETC.

13th June.—The Allied forces in Syria were marching on Damascus and the Free French were encircling Kiswe.

Beirut was attacked several times by the Royal Air Force, while Haifa and Tel Aviv were raided by the enemy.

General Antonescu, the Rumanian Premier, had conversations with Hitler and Ribbentrop at Bucharest.

14th June.—Vichy troops evacuated Kiswe.

Mr. Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary, assured Iraq that Britain would respect her independence and support her against any aggressors.

15th June.—The British captured the Syrian port of Sidon.

The Swiss Radio announced the adherence of the puppet State of Croatia to the Three-Power Pact; the ceremony took place at Venice in the presence of Ribbentrop and Ciano.

16th June.—It was confirmed in London that Kiswe, eleven miles from Damascus, was in Allied hands.

17th June.—A French destroyer was sunk in operations off Syria.

The Allies were closing in on Damascus and Allied reinforcements were sent to Merj Ayoum, which Vichy forces were trying to counterattack.

It was reported that the blackout had been re-introduced in Bucharest.

18th June.—A Turkish-German treaty of friendship was signed at Ankara. It is held to be only a non-committal undertaking as Turkey has refused to abrogate the Anglo-Turkish treaty or to open a way for German penetration.

The British Government assured the Royal Yugoslav Government in exile that they would not recognize " the brutal dismemberment of the Slovene people ".

Allied forces captured Queneilia and were within 12 miles of Beirut. They were also within three miles of Damascus.

19th June.—The Free French troops have now reached the western suburbs of Damascus. M. Sarajoglu, the Turkish Foreign Minister, in a broadcast said that the recent treaty confirmed for the future that the two countries would not oppose one another. Normal communications have been restored between Iraq and Palestine via Transjordan.

SHIPPING

13th June.—A German pocket battleship was hit by a British aerial torpedo off the Norwegian coast.

Ten fast new vessels, totalling 80,000 gross tons, were completed in American ship-building yards in May when production reached the highest level.

14th June.—The Admiralty announced the successes of the British submarines in the Mediterranean where ten Italian ships were sunk or damaged in port or on the high seas.

In Central Mediterranean, Royal Air Force bombers attacked a convoy of enemy merchantships, escorted by destroyers and auxiliaries. An enemy merchantship of 7,000 tons was a total loss. Altogether 20,000 tons of enemy shipping were sunk by the Royal Air Force during the week.

A Hungarian 4,000-ton ship was intercepted by a warship of the Netherlands East Indies in the East Indies waters.

15th June.—Royal Air Force Beaufort torpedo-carrying aircraft attacked an enemy convoy off the Dutch coast. A supply ship of about 6,000 tons was hit by a torpedo and probably sunk.

With America's expanding ship-building facilities, it was revealed, there would be an increase to 3,500,000 tons in 1942 and 5 million tons in 1943.

According to the U.S. Maritime Commission, America would turn out 1,250,000 deadweight tons of merchant shipping this year.

16th June.—The Ministry of Economic Warfare gave notice that any vessel carrying on transhipment of enemy goods arriving at South American ports from Europe would be placed on the black list and refused all navicert facilities.

18th June.—In view of the incursion of German troops in Finland the British Government stopped the issue of navicerts to Finnish ships bound for Petsamo, three of which were intercepted and detained.

19th June.—The House of Commons is shortly to debate the shipping position and the battle of the Atlantic in a secret session. Twenty-eight enemy vessels were damaged and 14 sunk during the week ending June 15. British ship " Empire Warrior " with coals from Portugal was sunk by aeroplanes near the Spanish border.

FAR EAST

13th June.—Chinese forces in Inner Mongolia were advancing eastward in three columns, converging on Pantoon, a Japanese stronghold, on the north bank of the Yellow River.

14th June.—Japanese aircraft bomb Chungking.

15th June.—Over a hundred Japanese warships, including a cruiser and an aircraft carrier, were stated to be moving southwards and a major move by Japan in Southern Pacific was suggested.

16th June.—The United States Embassy and the American gunboat Tutila had a narrow escape when 27 Japanese aircraft dropped bombs south of Yangtse River opposite Chungking City.

The British Ambassador in Tokyo protested to the Japanese Government against the bombing of the British Embassy in Chungking.

The Governor-General of the Dutch East Indies, in a speech, urged the stoppage of raw material exports to Japan.

17th June.—The United States Ambassador in Tokyo had a long discussion with the Japanese Foreign Minister.

A Japanese Naval spokesman said that the bombing of foreign property in Chungking by Japanese planes was purely accidental.

Mr. Wang Ching-Wei, Premier of the puppet government in Nanking, arrived in Tokyo.

The Japanese delegates decided to leave the Netherlands Indies following the break-down of the Batavia talks.

The Sino-Burman frontier was finally fixed by agreement.

The Japanese Ambassador Mr. Shigmitsu left London for Tokyo to report to his Government.

19th June.—A fleet of 53 Japanese warships was sighted off Amoy by the United States liner President Coolidge.

The Thailand Assembly unanimously ratified the Thailand-Indo-China peace treaty.

Wang-Ching-Wei, head of the puppet government at Nanking, declared joint Sino-Japanese defence against communism.

It is officially stated that American Cataline flying boats from the United States are arriving in Singapore via Manila.

VICHY

13th June.—The British Government informed Vichy that they had no territorial designs in Syria or elsewhere in French overseas possessions. The statement added that "the responsibility for the consequences of the assistance which the French authorities were ready to render to the enemies of His Majesty must rest with Marshal Petain's Government."

14th June.—The Swiss Radio stated that the Vichy despatch to the official German News Agency that the French Fleet had left Toulon was officially denied.

16th June.—General Delhomme, former Governor of Damascus, has been appointed War Minister in the Vichy Cabinet.

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

16th June.—Flemish workmen, it was reported, were sent to Northern France by the Germans and forced to work on the fortifications there.

17th June.—It was reported that King Leopold of the Belgians refused to treat with the Germans.

Januz Kuscocinski, the famous Polish long distance champion was tortured to death by the Gestapo.

19th June.—Remarkable passive resistance is being offered by the Netherlands to the Germans.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES (RUSSIA, SPAIN, EIRE, ETC.)

13th June.—The Tass News Agency stated that all rumours of Soviet preparations for war with Germany were devoid of foundation.

14th June.—It was reported from Ankara that Germany had 120 divisions on the Russian frontier, of which 20 to 30 were in Moldavia.

15th June.—The Swiss Radio announced that extensive military manœuvres were being carried on in various parts of the Soviet Union.

18th June.—The German Government in their reply to Eire's protest said that there was "no conclusive proof" that the planes that bombed Dublin were German.

19th June.—It is believed that Mexico may close down German Consulates and propaganda centres at any moment. Germany has expressed sincere regret to the Eire Government for the bomb-dropping on May 31, and has agreed to pay compensation.

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 10th June 1941:—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during British patrol activity (not specifically mentioned) over North-West European enemy coastal waters.

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
June 4, Wednesday.	R.A.F. day bombers raid on Zeebrugge (mole, shipping—1 merchantman sunk); shipping off Norwegian coast (5,000-ton merchantman on fire). R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter raid on docks and shipping at Boulogne. R.A.F. dusk fighter sweep over French coast.	2 day bombers, 2 day fighters.	1 day bomber. 3 day fighters.
June 5, Thursday.	(No reports.)	Nil.	1 seaplane.
June 6, Friday.	R.A.F. night bomber raids on French invasion bases ..	Nil.	..
June 7, Saturday.	R.A.F. day fighter sweeps over Straits of Dover and French coast. R.A.F. day bomber attacks on convoys off Dutch coast (25,000-ton merchantman believed sunk, others damaged) and Norwegian coast; salvage ship off Terschelling Island (on fire). R.A.F. night bomber raids on naval base at Brest; docks and shipping at Bergen.	1 day fighter. 3 day bombers.	..
June 8, Sunday.	R.A.F. night bomber raids on factories, canals, docks and railways in the Ruhr, particularly at **Dortmund** and Essan.	Nil.	..
June 9, Monday.	R.A.F. day bomber attacks on shipping off coast of Norway, Holland, Belgium, France.	4 day bombers.	1 day fighter.
June 10, Tuesday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on shipping. R.A.F. night bomber raids on naval base at **Brest** (battleships *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*, cruiser *Prinz Eugen*; submarine base at St. Narzaire; aerodromes at Mandal and Stavanger; shipping off Norwegian coast (2,000-ton merchantman torpedoed).	Nil.	1 day fighter.

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain, ascertained by competent authorities, for the week ending 10th June 1941 :—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during enemy attacks (not specifically mentioned) on shipping in North-West European coastal waters.

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
June 4	**Nil.**	**5 night bombers.**
June 5	**Nil.**	**1 day bomber.**
June 6	**Nil.**	..
June 7	**Nil.**	**2 day bombers.**
June 8	**Nil.**	**1 night bomber.**
June 9	**1 day fighter.**	**2 day fighters.**
June 10	**(1 day fighter down in Eire; pilot safe).**	**1 day bomber (+ 1 day bomber crashed in Eire).**

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
Diary of the War	1	Singapore: Key to the East	9
War in the Air	5	France Then and Now	11
Talking Points	6	Misleading Statements in Enemy Broadcasts.	12

TALKING POINTS

THE WEEK

The shipping losses inflicted on Axis Powers are very encouraging. Last week as many as 10 Italian ships, cruisers and trawlers, were either sunk or damaged by British action. During the week ending June 15, twenty-eight enemy ships were severely hit and fourteen of them are known definitely to have been sunk A German pocket-battleship has been severely damaged by a Beaufort torpedo. Only one of three pocket-battleships of Germany is now available. Now that the *Bismarck* is out of the way, the German Navy has only two capital ships in service, namely, the *Gneisenau* and the *Scharnhorst*. These and the 10,000-ton cruiser, *Prinz Eugen*, are at Brest unable to get out. The *Bismarck's* sister ship, the *Tripitz*, of 34,000 tons, has yet to make its appearance.

In Syria, Sidon and Kiswe are now in Allied hands, Damascus is being surrounded and Empire forces are within ten to fifteen miles of Beirut. In Abyssinia, the remnants of the Italian force are being rounded up and the surrender of many Italian officers and soldiers has been reported. In Cyrenaica, Fort Capuzzo is being successfully penetrated by British Forces and it is anticipated that, though the British offensive is not on a large scale operation, developments may be expected. Heavy losses have been incurred by the enemy in a big battle near Fort Capuzzo and the Empire Forces have withdrawn to forward positions after a three-day battle.

A striking attack on Vichy involving also a justification of the British action in Syria has been made by Mr. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State of the United States of America. France, he pointed out, was not required to permit territory under French control to be used as bases for German military operations. Recent events, he said, pointed to the fact that Admiral Darlan wants that people of France should surrender, permanently and unconditionally, loyalty to all French traditions and actually to transfer all those loyal ties and all hopes of the future to Hitler. He wondered whether the French people would accept this "preposterous status." Vichy's action really amounted to permitting Germany to extend the theatre of war into the French Mandated territory. Mr. Hull further pointed out that an Armistice only signified the temporary cessation of hostilities and did not contemplate "that the successful belligerent shall make inhuman demands" on a conquered nation, nor that the latter "shall be bludgeoned into becoming allies of their enemy."

A striking gesture of President Roosevelt is mentioned. Having heard that there was discrimination against the Negroes, President Roosevelt has called on the Office of Production Management to remember that industry must open the doors of employment to all loyal and qualified workers regardless of race, national origin, religion or colour. Productive man-power of the United States, he added, should be fully utilized.

It is confidently expected that the Radio will destroy the German airplanes. A secret weapon for the detection of enemy aircraft by Radio, is being used to counteract night bombers. The release of this news has given great satisfaction.

Australia's war effort is being accelerated, according to a broadcast made by Mr. Menzies, the Australian Premier, who said: "The recent reverses in Greece, Crete and Libya had lessons. One of them was that victory was for the nation with a superior equipment. For winning the war the Government would disregard all sectional interests, business profits and private comforts." Members of Parliament will take an increased share in war time responsibility and administration by appointment to Parliamentary Committees. Privileges will be put into melting pot and common rights and equal opportunities will be striven for.

Two statements have been made warning the Democracies that the war may be a prolonged one. Mr. Stimson, United States Secretary for War, told the Committees of the House of Representatives that the war may last more than four years and asked the people of the United States to prepare for a very long emergency. Field Marshal Smuts stated at Pretoria: "We are not at the end of the war. It almost looks like the beginning. It is a ter-

rible thing to say, but probably the greatest ordeals are still before us." It is interesting to note in this connexion that the United States' opinion is emphasising the phrase "The Time is Short" in Mr. Churchill's broadcast to Rochester University. A Canadian General has warned that the time was drawing near when the Nazis must attack England, "the one decisive theatre of war." He said: "We cannot afford to waste a single day of the short period which remains for preparation."

Turkey and Germany have entered into a political treaty by which they bind themselves mutually to respect the integrity and inviolability of their national territory and not to resort to any measures direct or indirect against their treaty partner. They are also to have friendly contact with each other in order to reach an understanding in the treatment of all questions touching their common interests.

The treaty is to last for ten years in the first instance. There is no disposition to take a tragic view of this treaty in England which had been kept informed of the negotiations. In America, it is said that the treaty is further proof of Hitler's war of nerves against Russia. In Turkey it is pointed out that the treaty does not interfere with the existing obligations of that country to Great Britain. Trade relations between Germany and Turkey are to be improved.

It has been announced that 2,44,000 Italian prisoners are now in British hands of whom 1,77,937 come from Italy and 66,000 are African troops.

Reports of a German ultimatum to Russia, of clashes on the Russo-German frontier and of Germany launching attacks on the eastern frontier at fifteen points have been denied.

MR. CHURCHILL'S BROADCAST

On the occasion of conferring the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by the Rochester University, Mr. Churchill, in a broadcast speech, said that he would strive to deserve the American confidence to that sense of kinship and unity which existed between America and England. "It has given me comfort and inspiration," he said, "to feel that our hands are joined across the oceans and that our pulses throb and beat as one." Here is a great sentiment well expressed. "When great causes are on the move in the world stirring all men's souls, drawing them from the fire-sides, casting aside comfort, wealth and the pursuit of happiness in response to impulses, at once awe-striking and irresistible, we learn that we are spirits, not animals, and that something is going on in space and time and beyond space and time, which, whether we like it or not, spells duty. A wonderful story is unfolding before our eyes."

Of the shadow which has been cast upon the world, he said: "Wickedness, enormous, panoplied, embattled and seemingly triumphant, has cast its shadow over Europe and Asia. Laws and customs are broken up; justice is cast from her seat; rights of the weak are trampled down; grand freedoms of which President Roosevelt had spoken so movingly, are spurned and chained; the whole stature of man, his genius, his initiative and his nobility, is ground down under systems of mechanical barbarism and of organized scheduled terror." He concluded by declaring his own faith in ultimate victory. "And now," he said "the old lion with her lion cubs at her side stands alone against the hunters who are armed with deadly weapons and impelled by desperate and destructive rage. Is tragedy to repeat itself once more? Ah no! This is not the end of the tale. The stars in their courses proclaim deliverance of mankind. Not so easily shall the onward progress of the peoples be barred. Not so easily shall the lights of freedom die. But time is short. Every month that passes adds to the length and to the perils of the journey that will have to be made. United we stand. Divided we fall. Divided the dark age returns. United we can save and guide the world."

JAPAN AND THE NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES

It has been announced that the trade talks between Japan and Netherlands East Indies have broken down. But the failure of the economic negotiations, it is stated, does not mean that normal relations between the two countries have been disrupted. The Japanese Press has called upon the Government to take determined steps to make the Netherlands East Indies to realize Japan's ideal of Greater East India. Japan is doing all that it can to infuse terror into the Dutch East Indies by fleet movements and other manifestations, but the Governor-General of that country made it perfectly clear that it was his duty to see that the enemy is not supplied through exports, directly or indirectly, with the much-needed raw materials that he needs. As for any threats that may be held out, the Netherlands Minister of Foreign Affairs said that the country was ready to join hands with the Allies in resisting aggression in the Pacific. The armed forces in that country are in a state of preparedness to resist unprovoked aggression. He quoted, with approval, the statement made by the British Commander-in-Chief in the Far East, who said that from the political and military point of view, the line which ran from Singapore across the Indies into Australia must be considered as a unit and an attack from the outside on any point along this line must be regarded and treated as an attack on the whole. He placed full faith in America's lending assistance to those who show that they are capable of helping themselves in a struggle against unprovoked aggression.

AMERICA AND GERMANY

The loss of *Robin Moor* is having serious repercussions. America takes a very serious view of the incident. American action against Germany has been suspended pending the receipt of full details from the survivors of that ship. The Captain's story has been cabled to America and Mr. Sumner Wells stated that, contrary to all tenets of International Law, to principles of international morality and to humanity, American citizens, including women and children, were forced to take to small life boats, when their vessel, an American merchantman engaged in peaceful commerce was sunk in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. It was not carrying any prohibited cargo and one can understand the indignation that has been aroused throughout America. America has already taken four measures. She has frozen German assets in the United States, has closed the Nazi Consulates throughout the country because they were freely used for subversive activities, German nationals have been debarred from going out of the country, in order that the action of freezing German assets may not be defeated and the immigration of suspects is soon to be prevented. Germany has retaliated by freezing American assets in that country, but this is considered to be only an academic retort. Germany is also closing American consulates in that country. No one can say for certain what the result of the strained relations between the two countries might eventually result in, but there can be no doubt that American feelings have been roused by this wanton assault on the part of Germany on an American merchantman.

BRITISH THRUST IN LIBYA

That the British forces retain the initiative in Libya was strikingly demonstrated when they launched an offensive in the Sollum area this week. Authoritative quarters in London spoke of it as a local operation but it must be emphasized that this time the fighting took place definitely *west* of Halfya Pass and that British forces among whom Indians are prominent have penetrated into Fort Capuzzo where the Germans have launched many unsuccessful counter-attacks. The British, after a three-day battle have withdrawn to their original position. The Germans and Italians are still at Sollum. The Cairo correspondent of the Columbia Broadcasting System reported that " both sides are flinging tanks and armoured vehicles into the battle and both appear to be strongly supported by aircraft " thus vindicating Mr. Churchill's statement in the Commons last week that the Royal Air Force in the Middle East was being strongly reinforced. General Wavell is not in the habit of announcing successes till he has consolidated his line and decided on the course of future action, but the American press and the radio think that a major offensive is under way and compare the new drive with General Wavell's first Libyan campaign. The fluidity of desert warfare is well illustrated by the fact that a British striking force, operating to the West of Bardia, made mencemeat of an Italian motorized column, though Bardia itself is still held by the enemy.

In Abyssinia the Italian forces in the Jimma sector are being surrounded and Generals and high officers, with thousands of other ranks, continue to be captured by the British Imperial forces. The capture of Assab, Eritrea's second port, means that the enemy has no port outside the Mediterranean. And in the Mediterranean itself, the British Navy sails proudly on smashing its way through all opposition. This week, British submarines have sunk ten Italian vessels—in ports and on the high seas. And finally the Royal Air Force is doing its best to break up any big scale massing of German troops with systematic and heavy raids on Bengazhi and other Axis bases in Libya. Now that President Roosevelt is taking prompt measures to ensure that United States bombers reach the British forces in Africa straight from America, we are encouraged to hope that the *Luftwaffe* will more than meet its match.

ALLIES' ADVANCE IN SYRIA

The Allied forces are making steady progress in Syria. The advance has necessarily been slow because they do not want to wound French feeling unnecessarily and want, if possible, to force a surrender of the Vichy forces rather than to fight bloody actions with old-time comrades in arms. But as *News Chronicle* remarks, " the Vichy French in Syria under orders from the Quisling Government, are putting up stiff resistance." To smash that resistance, the paper urges, we must put forth all the strength at our command. Compared with the issues at stake, the casualties that the French must suffer through their shortsightedness are as nothing. " If we fail to take Syria swiftly, the cause of Free France will be put back; if we succeed, the cost in Vichy lives will be well worth while for the sake of France's future."

The Allies are closing in on Damascus, the Syrian capital; they are making their way towards the city from the hills overlooking it. Vichy troops attempted a counter-attack on Merj Ayoum, but the town is in Allied hands and reinforcements are being hurried there in order to beat off any possible move by Vichy. Meanwhile, along the coast, the Allies have captured the ancient port of Sidon and are pressing on towards Beirut. The British Navy is rendering admirable assistance to the Imperial Forces and the efforts of the German air force to interfere with the naval operations have been neutralized by Royal Air Force fighters which are dominating the Syrian air.

(*Continued on Page* 10)

SINGAPORE: KEY TO THE EAST

EMPIRE'S GREAT BASTION

Singapore, "City of the Lions," is now part of the British colony of the Straits Settlements. But as the very name indicates, it is really a part of Greater India and traces of Hindu culture and civilization still linger in this most modern and cosmopolitan of cities. It is at once an island, a city and a naval base. Lying at the southernmost tip of Asia, it is separated from the mainland (the Federated Malay States) by a channel that is at one point only a mile and a quarter in width. It is but 78 miles from the Equator and its land area is 18 miles long and 15 miles wide. Left to itself, it would probably have reverted to the malarial jungle and swamp on which Britain has constructed in the course of seventeen years the largest and most modern naval base in the world.

It is possible that Singapore was a trading centre in the 12th and 13th centuries, but says "Encyclopædia Britannica" neither Marco Polo nor Ibn Batuta, both of whom wintered in Sumatra on their way back to Europe from China, have left anything on record confirmatory of this. About the middle of the 14th century, it was destroyed by Majapahit. In 1552, St. Xavier despatched letters from the port to Goa. When it passed by treaty to the East India Company in 1819, Sir Stamford Raffles persuading the Sultan and Temenggong of Johore to cede it to him, it was uninhabited save by fisherfolk. It was first subordinate to Benkulen, the Company's principal station in Sumatra, but in 1923 it was placed under the administration of Bengal. It was incorporated in the colony of the Straits Settlements when that colony was established in 1826.

The city of Singapore, on the island's southern shore, has a population of about 700,000, more than two-thirds of whom are Chinese. There are about 95,000 Malays and 8,000 white civilians. The remainder, it has been well said, is an amazing hodgepodge of all the races not only of Asia but of the whole Orient. Even the street and traffic signs have to be in three languages, English, Chinese and Malay. And there is quite a sizable Indian colony which is perfectly at home in this great clearing-house of the world's trade, through whose port passes the bulk of the world's supply of rubber and tin.

NAVAL BASE

The naval base, which was finished in 1938, lies along the island's northern shore, facing the mainland. It includes 50 square miles of protected anchorage, sufficient to shelter the combined fleets of Great Britain and the United States. "Ashore and afloat," says a report in the *New York Times*, "are dry-docks big enough to take the largest warship afloat and trained personnel sufficient to serve an entire fleet. Surface and underground repair shops, cranes, docks and railways make this gigantic repair plant look like a thriving factory town. Both above ground and buried beneath its surface are acres of fuel tanks and arsenals to feed both sea and air fleets."

A broad causeway links the northern end of the island to the mainland of Asia. This causeway is mined and can be destroyed—if it is necessary to do so in order to thwart an enemy—by pressing any one of several buttons. The waters surrounding the naval base are also mined and there is a ring of anti-aircraft batteries. Coastal defence long range guns and air fleets, based in strategically placed fields, afford further protection. "Not a ship can approach the island without being surveyed far over at sea by British or Australian airmen who maintain such a wide dawn to dusk patrol that even an enemy steaming at top speed could not secretly approach within attacking distance overnight." The naval base is linked to the city proper by one railway line and two excellent concrete highways. And the city itself is protected by extensive mine-fields, coast defences and gun emplacements.

KEY TO THE EAST

The naval base has cost more than £20,000,000, not counting the land defences. For years, 20 per cent of the gross revenues of the Straits Settlements has gone into its construction. Little wonder it ranks with Malta, Gibraltar, Pearl Harbour and the Panama Canal Zone as one of the world's great fortified areas. Is Singapore worth all this trouble and effort, asks an American writer; and he himself proceeds to answer in the affirmative: Geography has made her the focal point of Empire in the East. She is the key to British Malaya and the whole East Indies—and that area alone commands some of the world's richest resources, tin and rubber perhaps chief among them. In that area are some 68,000,000 people, almost as many as in the whole Japanese Empire. Wipe out Singapore and Japan would sweep into the Netherlands Indies without hindrance; for even should Britain send a fleet to its defence, that fleet would have no accessible base for fuel, supplies or repairs. With control of Singapore lost, the road would be open to Australia.

And the American writer concludes that the fate of Singapore means to the United States the fate of the Philippines. Without the naval base at Singapore, the Philippines would be merely another group of islands in a Japanese sea. "Singapore is more than an island, more than a city, more even than a naval base. Singapore is the key to the East, and it is not saying too much to declare that every southward step Japan has taken pointed towards this island stronghold."

UNIFIED COMMAND

And Great Britain has every intention of maintaining this stronghold. The appointment of Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert Brooke-Popham as Commander-in-Chief, Far East, with his headquarters at Singapore, means that for the first time all British land and air forces in Malaya, Burma and Hong-Kong are under a unified command. Sir Robert works in close collaboration with the Naval Commander-in-Chief, China Station, Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Layton. Within a few weeks of the Air Chief Marshal's arrival it was announced that substantial reinforcements of all arms for the Army and Air Force had reached Malaya, permitting a strengthening of British defences in the Far East. The Governor of the Straits Settlements Sir Shenton Thomas, has publicly stated that he would not be surprised if additional reinforcements arrived soon. And the New Commander-in-Chief has mentioned that the Imperial Government intend to send men and munitions to the Far East in unceasing flow.

Sir Robert has wide powers to co-ordinate the forces under his command; he has direct access to all colonial Governors in his area; and he corresponds with and consults the Australian and New Zealand High Commands as well as the Commander-in-Chief in India. He has just visited Burma, thus completing an extensive tour of the Far Eastern defences from Hong-Kong to Rangoon.

INDIAN TROOPS IN SINGAPORE

The troops defending Singapore continue to grow in strength and numbers. Reinforcements from India are particularly formidable. A Singapore correspondent of *Ceylon Daily News* gives the following report, which bears testimony to the smartness and equipment of the Indian forces. The Indian troops brought with them their own motor transport. They were completely mechanized, there being not a single mule or pack animal with any unit. This was the first time that such a considerable body of troops, with full war equipment, had been landed in Malaya within a few days. Officers who watched the disembarkation were impressed by the orderliness with which it was carried out and the speed with which heavy equipment was landed and moved off the docks and away by road to the various military camps throughout Malaya. The troops were soon busily engaged on training in jungle warfare tactics. Sir Robert Brooke-Popham has visited several of the Indian units in Malaya. When he called on one unit at a comparatively isolated town on the East Coast, there had been about seven inches of rain the previous day, but the men were in excellent spirits and were quickly adapting themselves to Malayan conditions. "I have perfect confidence in their ability to perform the duties allotted to them," the Commander-in-Chief remarked.

The air force reinforcements that recently arrived in Singapore include Australian and New Zealand squadrons, indicating the importance which Australia and New Zealand attach to the defence of this Far Eastern bastion. The development of the Singapore radio station—"the voice of Britain in the Far East"—with its short-wave transmitter designed to be heard over a wide area from Japan to New Zealand, is another powerful factor in cementing the unity and defence of the Eastern section of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

TALKING POINTS

(*Continued from Page* 8)

One Vichy destroyer has been sunk but there is still no news of the French Fleet that was reported to have left Toulon towards Eastern Mediterranean. Further north, much is expected of the daring Allied thrust from Iraq. If it succeeds, Damascus will be cut off from northern Syria and will be forced to surrender.

The Free French have particularly distinguished themselves. They have forced the Vichy troops from Kiswe; and their intrepid leader, General Le Gentilhomme, who was wounded by bombs, is back again in the field and will doubtless be to the fore in the capture of Damascus.

FRANCE, THEN AND NOW

VICHY AT THE BAR

At the beginning of the war, the British Empire had in France a powerful ally and a trusted friend.

A year ago, France was a fallen comrade, blood-stained and battered, to whom Britain still offered the hand of friendship and aid.

Today France—official France, that is—stands forth as Britain's enemy, allied with the Nazi foes of all human freedom and progress.

But the soul of France lives on in General de Gaulle and the heroic warriors of Free France, who at this moment are moving into Syria to rid that land of the Axis interlopers who were admitted there by the men of Vichy.

In September, 1939, France had a Metropolitan army of over a million men and an air force of nearly 4,000 warplanes ranged between Hitler and the western world. Her navy—8 battleships, 18 cruisers, 63 destroyers, 80 submarines and an aircraft-carrier—stood guard in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, helping to enforce the blockade of Germany. Her overseas colonies and mandated territories, providing useful war bases, comprised more than 3,250,000 square miles in Africa, America, Asia and Oceania. In French North Africa was another army of nearly 300,000 men, with an unorganized reserve of twice that number. Add to this the vast industrial production of Metropolitan France, plus the raw materials available in her overseas Empire, and we have an idea of France's enormous contribution—actual and potential—to the Allied war effort.

On June 25, 1940, Marshal Petain declared in a broadcast immediately after signing the Armistice: "Honour, however, has been saved. No one will ever use our planes and our fleet. We shall retain the land and naval units essential to maintain order. . . . Our Government remains free; France will only be governed by Frenchmen."

That was France's pledge to the democracies. How has it been honoured?

HOW VICHY KEPT ITS WORD

Today, the greater part of France is a spring-board from which Hitler attacks Britain and the free world. Even apart from the Nazi air and naval bases in Occupied France, supplies for Germany (carried in French merchantmen, convoyed by French warships) steal into the ports of unoccupied France, Axis vessels shelter in France's African harbours, and at any moment the aged Marshal Petain—hoodwinked by Darlan and Laval—may hand over to Germany what remains of the French fleet, together with six vital bases on the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. Some 250,000 tons of British and Allied shipping have been illegally detained in French ports.

Blackest crime of all, the men of Vichy have handed over to the Gestapo many hundreds of German political refugees who had found in pre-war France a sanctuary from the horrors of Hitler's Reich.

VICHY IS NOT FRANCE

Who have done these things? Not the French people as a whole, the great, silent, patient masses, many of whom have experienced no fewer than three German invasions within their own lifetime. It is the men of Vichy who have sold France—shabby politicians, disappointed military leaders, recreants like Darlan, Dentz and Laval, who would sacrifice a nation's honour and a people's freedom to their own ambitions. The aged Marshal Petain, hoodwinked and bullied by his entourage, is nowadays no more than a figure-head.

As always when a nation falls to Hitler, it is the people who have been betrayed by their so-called "leaders." Hundreds of thousands of Frenchmen—groaning in occupied France, chafing in unoccupied France, sullen yet desperate in Nazi prison-camps—look for liberation of their country not to Vichy, but to de Gaulle and the men who fight on. In Free France's victory lies the only hope of all France.

Today General de Galle's Free Frenchmen have thrown down the gauge of battle at the feet of the Vichy traitors. Side by side with British and Imperial troops, they are carrying the banners of freedom into Syria and Lebanon—territories held by France under mandate, but betrayed by Darlan and his brother Quisling, Dentz, into the hands of Germans. That betrayal is not yet complete, but in recent weeks planes, airmen, technicians and even ground troops have been flowing into Syria and Lebanon; even before that, French munitions and supplies were sent from Syria to Iraq, to be used against France's former ally by Rashid Ali.

Here, then, is one result of Vichy's treacheries—Frenchmen may have to fight Frenchmen to uphold the honour of France and to ensure her place in the free world which will follow the downfall of Hitler. But, for India, this Syrian operation means even more than the uprising of Free Frenchmen against their betrayers. It means that Free France is helping to bar one of the western doors through which Hitler's hordes might have rushed to attack India.

MISLEADING STATEMENTS IN ENEMY BROADCASTS

BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

'All At Sea'

Shipping has always been a favourite Axis propaganda theme. There are two reasons for this. Britain is a maritime nation; shipping routes are a vital artery upon which her survival largely depends. Secondly, the combined German and Italian merchant fleets at the outbreak of war totalled less than a third of the British fleet. Therefore, Axis losses at sea were certain to be smaller than the British losses.

So it was natural that Lord Haw Haw should devote the major part of his weekly commentary (June 8) to painting a gloomy picture of the one-sided war at sea.

"Without reference to merely damaged vessels," said Haw Haw, "Britain has now lost more than 11,000,000 tons of the merchant shipping at her disposal since the beginning of the war. If sinkings continue at the present rate," he added, "Britain's loss for a year will exceed 9,000,000 tons. British and American shipyards together cannot produce under present conditions more than 2,250,000 tons per year."

Wishful thinking

By a combination of lies and wishful thinking, Haw Haw manages to produce a very alarming and very plausible picture. The British Admiralty has issued accurate figures for British, Allied and Neutral shipping losses up to April 30. These show that, in the first 20 months of the war, 923 British ships (total tonnage 3,896,242) have been sunk, as well as 585 Allied and Neutral vessels (total tonnage, 2,231,431). So much for Haw Haw's 11,000,000 tons.

In April, the German radio "sank" 1,144,995 tons. Actual losses, however, were :—

	Tons.
British	293,000
Allied	189,473
Neutral	5,562
	488,035

At this rate, British, Allied and Neutral losses for a year will be less than 6,000,000 tons. So much for Haw Haw's 9,000,000 tons.

Building programme

Haw Haw is a little nearer the truth when he says that, under present conditions, British and American shipyards can produce no more than 2,250,000 tons in a year.

But America plans to build 5,000,000 tons in 1943. It may seem fantastic to say that America can increase her shipbuilding capacity five times in two years. But she has done it before. In 1915 her total output was 157,200 tons, but four years later 3,580,000 tons of shipping left the slipways. In four years American shipyards increased their output more than 20 times.

But will these American ships be ready in time? Assuming that losses continue on their present scale, Britain will be stronger at sea at the end of this year than she was at the outbreak of war. Although she will have lost about 10,000,000 tons (including Allied and Neutral ships), she will have gained 12,700,000 tons. This total is made up as follows :—

	Tons.
Allied shipping acquired	8,300,000
Foreign shipping bought	500,000
Foreign shipping captured	400,300
Built since September 3, 1939 ..	1,200,000
British Building in 1941	1,300,000
American Building in 1941	1,000,000
	12,700,000

Added to this, shipping space is being saved by avoiding non-essential cargoes and President Roosevelt is creating a pool of 2,000,000 tons of shipping, bought, seized and built, to ease Britain's position.

Baghdad and Belgrade

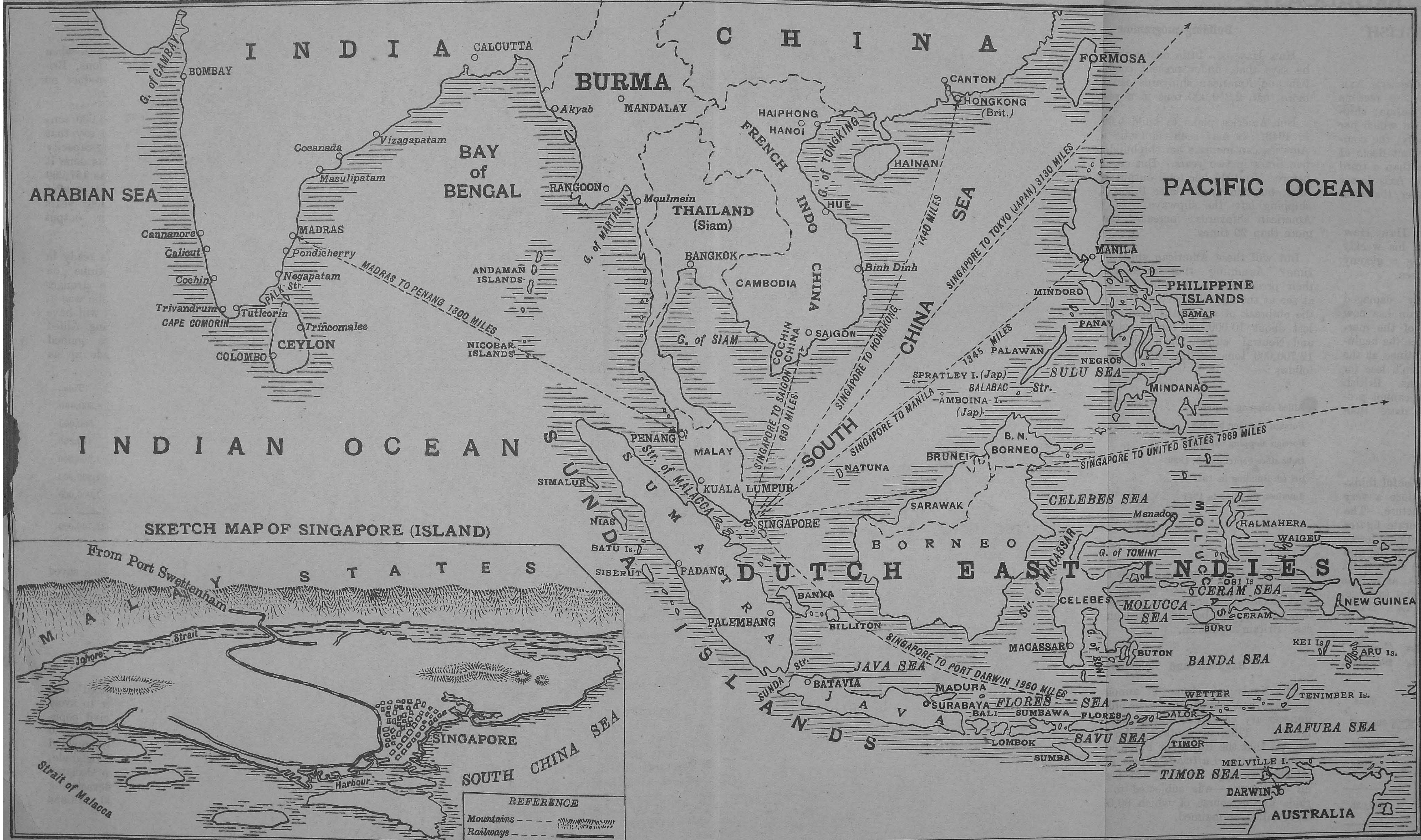
The Nazis on June 2 announced that Baghdad had surrendered "in order to avoid unnecessary casualties among the civil population." This, of course, is an attempt to suggest that the Royal Air Force contemplated emulating the *Luftwaffe's* feat at Belgrade, which—two days after it had been declared an open town—was subjected to devastating raids in the course of which 60,000 civilians were killed or maimed.

In point of fact, Baghdad did not surrender at all. After the ignominious flight of Rashid Ali, the city's proper authorities took control once more and invited the lawful Regent of Iraq to re-enter his capital.

MAP SHOWING THE STRATEGIC POSITION of

SINGAPORE

SCALE 1 INCH = 320 MILES



Reg. No. 69|1 Copies 1800 Heliozinco., Survey Office, Madras. 1941.

British raid on Benghazi

"During Wednesday," said Berlin's bulletin on June 6, "some British bombers attempted an attack on a harbour in Cyrenaica. The well-aimed fire of German and Italian anti-aircraft batteries forced the enemy to drop his bombs at random. No damage was caused."

Perhaps the "harbour in Cyrenaica" referred to in this suspiciously vague report was Benghazi, which was successfully attacked by British heavy bombers on Wednesday morning. Direct hits were scored on the Central and Cathedral moles, and also on the aerodrome just outside the town. An Italian fighter which tried to intercept was shot down. Further heavy raids have been made on Bengazhi since then.

British naval losses

On June 5, Berlin claimed that, during May, the German and Italian forces between them had sunk :—

1 British battleship;

12 ,, cruisers;

12 ,, destroyers;

6 ,, submarines.

The Royal Navy's May losses, as already announced, were the battle-cruiser *Hood;* three cruises, *York*, *Gloucester* and *Fiji*; four destroyers, *Greyhound*, *Kelly*, *Kashmir* and *Mashona;* and the submarine *Usk*.

BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES

American Aid

Purporting to quote the remarks of an American Senator, the Nazis' Hindustani broadcast of June 2 tries to establish that during the last two months Britain received practically no war materials from the United States of America. In March Great Britain received 414 military planes. In April the total of military planes manufactured in the United States of America amounted to 1,414 and for May the total is estimated to be 1,600. Considering that England is to receive half of the planes manufactured in the United States of America it is obvious that Great Britain is receiving an increasing measure of aid from the United States of America.

Moreover, it is significant that the German battleship *Bismarck* was sighted by an American-built Catalina aircraft of the coastal command about 550 miles west of Land's End. United States-manufactured aircraft also have been used in North African campaign and in the Iraq operations.

Growing determination

According to the Nazis' Hindustani broadcast of June 8, the *New York Daily News* has stated that 95 per cent of the American people are against going to the aid of Britain. The Gallup polls in America, however, reveal a story which completely counters this Nazi claim.

In May 1940, only 36 per cent of those questioned wished to help Britain even at the risk of war, while 64 per cent wished America to keep out of the war at all costs. In August 47 per cent voted to help Britain at the risk of war and in December 60 per cent. The latest poll indicates that 62 per cent wish to go to war, if necessary, to aid Britain, while those who wished to remain neutral at all costs have dwindled to 26 per cent. It should be mentioned that the Gallup polls are reputed for their accuracy and are carefully studied by President Roosevelt.

This freedom

Dr. Goebbels' Hindustani Persian broadcasts of June 5 brazenly asserted that the German soldier was fighting for the freedom of his country. In view of this empty boast, it may be pertinent to illustrate the nature of this "freedom" for whose perpetuation the German soldier is dying. Johann Wild, a German Aryan, listened to foreign broadcasts and was accused of passing on what he heard. He was executed at Nuremberg on May 18, 1941. Another example of this freedom is the fact that, in the months of September, October and November 1940, the Nazis put to death 85,000 blind, aged or "incurably ill" Germans. The 300 Catholic priests who had the nerve to protest, were thrown into concentration camps.

It is not at all surprising that one witness described this action as "the ultimate logic of the Nazi doctrine."

British shipping in the Panama Canal

In their anxiety to demonstrate the seriousness of the British shipping position, German broadcasts in Hindustani and Persian stated on June 4 that during the first four months of 1941 only 14 British ships passed through the Panama Canal, as against 101 in the 12 months of 1940. In the first place these figures referred to by the Nazis are their own, and as such highly suspect.

But even if these were correct, they would not prove the Nazi contention. What has happened is that, in order to release British shipping for the Atlantic, American ships have replaced British ones in other oceans. The latest example is the decision of the United States Maritime Commission to take over all British shipping services between Canada and United States to Australia and New Zealand, which will have the effect of releasing 12 British vessels for Britain's own war effort.

True to form

Running true to form, Dr. Goebbels' Hindustani and Arabic broadcasts of June 3 came out with a string of atrocities which the British were supposed to have committed on the citizens of Baghdad. That these Nazi tales are even more ludicrous than usual is shown by the fact that the British are in no sense the rulers of Iraq, and that they are definitely not responsible for the administration of law and order. With the return of the lawful Regent, Iraq reverts to the position she enjoyed before Rashid Ali's usurpation. In accordance with the terms of the Anglo-Iraq treaty, British troops will have free passage, but the Regent will govern the country.

N.B.—Please file the Madras War Review regularly for future reference.

[With the compliments of the Director of Information, Madras.]

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